

# Urban District Council of Shepton Mallet.

## Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year ending 31st December, 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Shepton Mallet.

### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

A. H. Finch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Isolation Hospital and Public Vaccinator.

G. W. R. Bishop, M.B.B.S., Public Assistance Officer.

Duncan T. G. Brown, A.R. SAN. I., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	2259 Statute Acres
Estimated Resident Population ...	4,296
Number of Inhabited Houses, 31st December, 1937 ...	1,291
Ditto, ditto, 31st Dec., 1936 ...	1,276
Rateable Value ...	£22,461
Actual Product of 1d. Rate ...	£87

The Area is chiefly Agricultural.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births, Legitimate	59	33	26
Illegitimate	1	Nil.	1
Total for 1936 ...	60		
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	13.96		
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population for 1936 ...	13.91		
Still births ...	1		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	16.4		
	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths ...	57	33	24
Deaths, 1936 ...	63	27	36
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	13.27		
Ditto ditto, 1936 ...	14.61		
Deaths from Puerperal causes :—			
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil.		
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births ...	Nil.		
Other puerperal causes ...	Nil.		
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births ...	Nil.		
Total from puerperal causes ...	Nil.		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	Nil.		
Death rate of infants under one year :			
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	50		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	50.85		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil.		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	9		
Do. Measles do. ...	Nil.		
Do. Whooping Cough do. ...	Nil.		
Do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	Nil.		

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

During the year the Ambulance has been used on 106 occasions, 58 Urban and 48 Rural.

18 accident cases are included in these figures.

In 1936 the total number of accident cases was 25.

The new 2 Stretcher Bedford De Luxe Motor Ambulance, purchased in January, 1936, continues to give entire satisfaction.

### HOSPITALS.

There is one District Hospital supported by voluntary contributions and also a joint Urban and Rural Isolation Hospital.

The membership of the Hospital League for Shepton Mallet and District continues to increase and is now 3,503. This covers about 8,000 persons.

### CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

This continues to be held at the Wesleyan Schoolroom, in Paul Street, on alternate Fridays throughout the year.

From January 1st, 1937, to December 31st, 1937 : Sessions 25.

Total attendances of Mothers for the 12 Months ...	521
Total attendances of all Children under 5 years of age ...	547
First attendances under 1 year Seen by Doctor for first time :	152
Under 1 year ...	25
Children seen by Doctor during 1937 ...	102
Number of Mothers on Register ...	67

### MATERNITY CENTRE.

The County Council have abolished the Centre and expectant mothers are now visited in their homes.

Nursing in the home is provided by two Queen's District Nurses.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Shepton Mallet Water Works Company, and comes by gravitation from Springs in the Mendip Hills. The water is chlorinated continuously. Twelve samples have been taken during the year, and all reports have been satisfactory.

### PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

The attendance at the Pool during the year was higher, being 5,745 bathers, as compared with 4,407 in 1936.

A heating apparatus for raising the temperature of the Pool water was installed in August. This was much appreciated by the bathers and the attendance was accordingly increased.

The water is purified by up to date plant and chlorinated.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Water Closets are compulsory, where water is available, and every year improvement is made in this direction.

Only a few Houses on the outskirts of the District are not connected to the Public Sewer.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All house refuse is collected by a Motor Vehicle, conveyed to the Charlton Tip, and burnt in an incinerator. This method continues to be satisfactory.

### PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The Drainage, Sanitary Accommodation and Water Supply at the three Schools, viz., Waterloo Road, Kilver Street, and Bowlish, is satisfactory. Two schools were closed for a fortnight owing to a mild outbreak of Influenza.



## SHOPS' ACT, 1934.

Shops within the Urban District have been inspected and, where necessary, additional ventilation and sanitary accommodation has been provided.

## HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year :—

1. By Local Authority	
With State Assistance—	
(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936 ...	None
(b) Overcrowding ...	None
(c) Other ...	None
Without State Assistance ...	None
2. By other bodies or persons :—	
(a) With State Assistance ...	None
(b) Without State Assistance ...	17

## HOUSING INSPECTIONS—

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	61
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ...	84
2. (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 ...	21
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	—
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	6
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	None

## HOUSING ACTION.

Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	5
---	---

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

## A. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	None
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ...	None
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	None

## B. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	None
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners ...	None
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	None

## C. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 13 AND 26 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	4
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	2
(3) Clearance Orders made ...	None
(4) Clearance Orders confirmed ...	None
(a) Number of houses involved ...	None
(b) Number of houses demolished ...	None

## HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	1
(ii) Number of Families dwelling therein ...	1
(iii) Number of Persons dwelling therein ...	6
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	None
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	None
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	None
(d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	None
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	None

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING 1937.

Accumulation of Refuse Removed ...	3
Drains Cleared ...	4
Drains Tested ...	10
Defective Roofs Repaired ...	4
New W.C.'s Provided ...	6
Premises Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	23
Miscellaneous Defects Remedied ...	28

## MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register ...	27
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :—	
(a) Distributors only ...	5
(b) Distributors who are also Producers ...	4
(2 of these reside outside the District). Six Dairymen in the District are Producers of Accredited Milk, and one of "T.T."	
The following Samples were sent for Analysis :—	
Samples of Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) ...	1
Pasteurised ...	7
Accredited ...	12
Tubercle Bacilli ...	3
The condition of the Cow Stalls has been considerably improved.	

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	18	16	Nil
Diphtheria ...	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	25	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	1	1
	48	19	1

## TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 yrs. of age ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10-20 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-30 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-40 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
40-45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 45 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	—

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 4 Licensed and 2 Registered Slaughter Houses in the District; Licenses are granted for 12 months.

These are constantly inspected, especially when Slaughtering is in progress.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Slaughter Houses Occupiers :—

J. H. Ellicott, Butcher, High St.	Registered
E. J. Taylor, Butcher, Peter St.	Ditto.
Britten Bros., Butcher, High St.	Licensed.
C.W.S. Bacon Factory, Charlton Rd.	Ditto.
C. Tutton, Butcher, Bowlish.	Ditto.
R. Lewis and S. Mapley (joint), Draycott.	Ditto.

Notices under Section 8 of the Regulations :

- (a) Person appointed to receive these Notices,  
Mr. D. Brown, Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) Number of Slaughter-House Occupiers,  
exclusive of Emergency Slaughtering,  
who have given notice of Slaughtering  
at a fixed time

7

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
All diseases (except Tuberculosis)				
Whole carcase condemned ...	—	—	—	59
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	10	1
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcase condemned ...	—	—	—	133
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	1792

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are periodically inspected, and should any defects be found the Owner or Occupier is notified and the necessary work done.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 3 within the District, which are all periodically inspected.

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. FINCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban  
District Council of Shepton Mallet.

